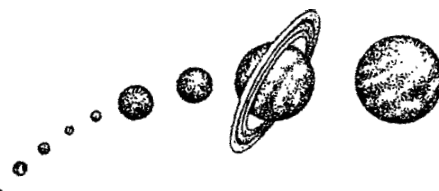


JPL Stories



*Thursday,
September 27,
2001*

4 PM to 5 PM

JPL Library,

Customer

Service Area,

west end of

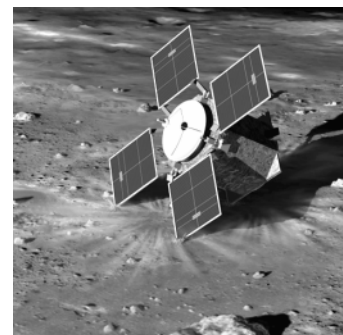
Building 111

Room 104

The Story of NEAR Navigation: Extreme Partnering for JPL

*Presented by Dr. Bobby G. Williams,
NEAR Navigation Team Chief*

Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) set a number of firsts in space exploration. Come hear the story of the first extreme partnership of JPL with Johns Hopkins University-Applied Physics Lab (JHU-APL).



- Hear how JPL deep-space navigation experts established an extreme partnership with the JHU-APL that enabled the NEAR mission, the first US deep-space mission to be led by a non-NASA center.
- Hear how NEAR management challenged JPL to perform a mission unlike any before it—to rendezvous and orbit a small, irregularly shaped body—the asteroid Eros.
- Hear how, even though JHU-APL is a competitor for other Discovery missions, JPL management gave NAV the green light to proceed.
- And hear how the extreme technical challenge was met and exceeded when the JPL team, completely dedicated to the task, navigated the NEAR Shoemaker spacecraft to an unprecedented safe landing on Eros.